

Marching to Class – USNA

Here's a submittal from Dave (DBA) Moore that should evoke some memories about marching to class.

Tonight (8 August 2001) I was watching TV and an ad came on hawking a set of CD's by the Kingston Trio. The snippets of music played reminded me of one of my favorite memories of those few years.

Eight seasons we passed down the brick walkways toward Mahan Hall and the other academic building to cross a few more rivers. We would salute Tecumseh with a left hand and/or throw pennies (some mids allegedly threw their pennies at the young dependents scooping up the coins). But January 1961 was special. As we marched off from Tecumseh Court some clever individual started singing the chorus from the Kingston Trio song - "It takes a worried man to sing a worried song (3 times), I'm worried now but I won't be worried long" . And before long everyone formed up in front of Mother B was singing along.

That memory is so clear to me I can almost hear George Nolan's voice.

A few days later, marching to class ended forever at USNA - and the singing spirit at the Naval Academy started to die. We were lucky !

And a response from Mike Shelley:

Looking back across a 40-year gulf it's easy for me to say this, but: I miss the marching. There was an inherent spirit to it that defies description. You know what I mean. What I miss the most, though, is marching up chapel walk on Sunday mornings with the Chiefs' band playing up-tempo hymns and all of us groggy Mids held very erect by our full-dress or white service uniforms. I feel better each time I remember that scene.

Today's mids never sing.